

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

SACRAMENTO - Lt. Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement Thursday regarding the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act:

"Since its passage 17 years ago today, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has helped the more than 43 million Americans with disabilities have a real opportunity to realize the American Dream. Just as importantly, it has helped enrich our great nation by making it possible for all Americans to contribute their unique gifts to the workplace and participate more fully in all aspects of life. On this anniversary, we should all recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Americans who have benefited from the ADA and who have made important contributions to increase the vitality of their communities.

"This hallmark occasion also serves as a reminder that the passage of a law is not enough. We must continuously renew our commitment to implementing the ADA's guarantee of reasonable accommodation and equality, or else the law becomes mere words. We also must set our sights on ensuring that Californians with disabilities can reach their full potential by providing them with real access to education and employment. In addition, we must ensure that they can fully participate in our civic life and discourse, and that our voting systems are fully accessible, including to those with visual impairments. By continuing our support for the ADA, we will ensure that all Americans are given the opportunity to succeed in all aspects of life."

For more information about the ADA, please visit: www.ada.gov.

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